

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 11452 300304Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-08 EUR-12 ERDA-07 ACDA-10
CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NRC-07
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TAGS: ENRG, TECH, JA, GW
SUBJECT: JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN IEA R & D COOPERATION

REF: A. STATE 176122, B. BONN 12439

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT OF ARTICLE APPEARING IN
JAPAN TIMES, JULY 7, 1977, REFERRED TO IN
CLASSIFIED SEPTTEL:

2. IEA HITS JAPAN'S "INDIFFERENCE" (HEADLINE)

THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA) HAS PROTESTED
AGAINST JAPAN'S "INDIFFERENCE" TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF NEW
ENERGY SOURCES, MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND
INDUSTRY (MITI) OFFICIALS DISCLOSED WEDNESDAY.

ACCORDING TO THE MITI OFFICIALS, THE PROTEST CAME IN A
LETTER RECEIVED BY INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER
TATSUO TANAKA FROM THE IEA HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS TUESDAY.
IT WAS SIGNED BY DR. SCHMIDT-KUESTER, CHAIRMAN OF THE IEA'S
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

THE LETTER EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH JAPAN'S
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DECISION NOT TO TAKE PART IN THE EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT
TO BE STARTED BY THE IEA IN SPAIN FOR THE GENERATION
OF ELECTRIC POWER BY SOLAR HEAT, AND URGED JAPAN TO
RECONSIDER ITS DECISION.

FURTHERMORE, THE LETTER POINTED OUT THAT JAPAN, WHICH,
LIKE THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY, IS ONE OF THE

LEADING IEA MEMBERS, IS TAKING PART IN ONLY THREE OUT OF THE 18 DIFFERENT IEA PROJECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ENERGY SOURCES, AND HAS NOT BEEN WILLING TO COOPERATE FOR THE RELEASE OF PATENTS ON ENERGY TECHNOLOGY.

THE IEA WONDERED WHY JAPAN IS SO INDIFFERENT TOWARD DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ENERGY SOURCES, WHILE IT RELIES ON THE SUPPLY FROM ABROAD FOR MOST OF THE ENERGY RESOURCES IT NEEDS AND HAS VAST FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES, THE OFFICIALS SAID.

MITI HOLDS THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR JAPAN TO ALTER ITS DECISION, BECAUSE THE IEA PROJECT IN SPAIN IS TO GENERATE ONLY ABOUT 500 KILOWATTS OF ELECTRIC POWER, AND BECAUSE THIS PROJECT OVERLAPS JAPAN'S "SUNSHINE PROJECT" AIMED AT TURNING OUT 1,000 KILOWATTS BY THE USE OF SOLAR HEAT.

HOWEVER, THE AGENCY OF INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WHICH HAS THE JURISDICTION OVER THE SUNSHINE PROJECT, THINKS THAT "ALL OTHER ARGUMENTS OF THE IEA ARE CORRECT."

MITI ITSELF COMPLAINED THAT IT IS QUITE IMPOSSIBLE FOR JAPAN TO OFFER COOPERATION IN ACCORDANCE
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WITH THE REQUESTS FROM INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, BECAUSE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IS SUBJECT TO BUDGETARY RESTRICTIONS, AND BECAUSE IT TAKES NEARLY A YEAR TO PRESENT BUDGETARY DEMANDS AND SECURE DIET APPROVAL.
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